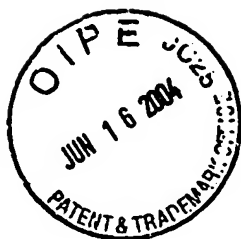


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fred ZACOUTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : 10/040,429

(Continuation of US application 09/200,855)

Examiner: B. Snow

Filed : January 9, 2002

For : SKELETAL IMPLANT

CORRECTED CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Sir:

Applicant hereby claims the right of priority granted pursuant to 35 USC § 119 based upon French Application Nos. 9609157, filed on July 22, 1996 and 9805549, filed on April 30, 1998. As required by 37 CFR § 1.55, a certified copy of French application 9609157 has been filed in grandparent application 08/897,673 filed on July 21, 1997, and a certified copy of French application 9805549 has been filed in parent application 09/200,855 filed on November 30, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred ZACOUTO et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil F. Greenblum".

Neil F. Greenblum

Reg. No. 28,394

35-813

June 16, 2004
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
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Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191